



# newsletter

series 4, edition 3 - SPRING/SUMMER 2022



*In these months of Ukrainian Crisis, a good number of refugees were helped through our Mission Centre in Cihei, we tried to show them love and support and they were all very thankful and grateful that God provided such an opportunity for them.*

In Ministry, I have found over 45 years of full-time Christian Ministry, you must always be ready for the unexpected. As good stewards and professional management, of course we try to plan, well in advance and with as many variables accounted for as is humanly possible. Events like a Covid Pandemic and a war in Ukraine, remind us we can't plan for everything. So, it teaches us the absolute essential need to stay in communication with our Heavenly Father, who knows all things – He is never taken by surprise, and will guide us through the challenging paths to do His Will and ensure His Call on our life is fulfilled.

Thank you for your faithfulness in staying with Smiles to know God's Work will always be done for His Glory and for the extension of His Kingdom.

My sincere appreciation to you all.



**Kevin Hoy**  
Founder & Chief Executive  
The Smiles Foundation

## Welcome to our Spring-Summer 2022 Newsletter

Sincere greetings to you from Romania and thank you for your interest and support of the Smiles Foundation's work here. Our Newsletter is full of important and interesting reports from the various projects within the ministry, and I sincerely trust you find the news and updates informative and helpful.

As we prepare this newsletter, the world is once again in turmoil and anguish. After 2 years of the challenges from a pandemic, now we face the horrors of war, the likes of which has never been seen in most of our lifetimes. So often, with the tragedies we see on our TV screens or read of in our newspapers, we feel somewhat helpless to do anything meaningful. Something that will 'make a difference'.

It has been both a humbling experience and a blessing for the Smiles Foundation, by involving our supporters, staff and facilities – to directly impact and assist the Ukrainian Refugees, fleeing their homeland for safety from bombs and missiles. As a result of our supporters' generosity, Smiles has been able to provide support with transport throughout Europe, Accommodation, Food, Hygiene and Medical supplies plus the opportunity to listen, counsel and pray with those traumatised by the experience. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for partnering with Smiles to be the Hands and Feet of Christ – sharing His Love with those in need and the message of the Gospel for those living in fear of an unknown future. **Thank you!**

## Inside this newsletter:

Learn more about the future  
development of Sunset House  
page 4

Support proposals and ideas  
for helping with the work of Smiles  
page 5

Read how to look at  
"All for one and one for all!"  
page 7



# MISSIONS PILLAR

Missions is one substantial corner pillar that supports the entire work of God through Smiles. It covers strategic elements of long-standing projects that have been the backbone of Smiles for over 20-years. Now with new vision and motivation, the MISSIONS Pillar strives to be "salt & light" as we are commanded in **Matthew 5 v16**.

**Maria Hava**

Director of Missions Pillar  
The Smiles Foundation



## A new creation...

Spring always puts me in a 'fresh mode'... and I love it!

I love the smell, I love the colours that nature is bringing, I love the trees with their full blossom, I love the longer, lighter days ..... I love everything at this time of year!

It is the same in us, with GOD. In Him, we are a NEW creation! Having hope for a better future. I always love, at this time, to look at my projects and do something of a 'spring clean'!

So far this year, I already had 2 Mission Teams. I really enjoyed seeing people come back H.O.M.E. Coming back for that special 'Hands-On Mission Experience'.



The Educational work is a very important part of the Mission Pillar!

It is so nice to know, that for the last 19 years, we were a part of the children's lives in Tileagd, Gepiu, Rapa and other villages that we serve through our family care visits, often providing 'educational support' as part of our work!

I like to think of us as 'builders', as we put the foundations in place from their early age with education. In a world where everything seems to move so fast, it's nice to be able to still do a lot of things the old fashion way .... That's the part that I love the most in our Smiles Educational programs. We still can talk to people about God's love and grace, while they are learning to read and write! Why not?

Thank you for helping us to transform children's lives, one kid at a time!

The 2 years of pandemic made it feel like a never-ending issue. Would we ever see Mission Visitors again? I am very glad to get my Mission Centre back with activity. Even so, for the last week in February and during March, I used it intensively for accommodating the refugees from Ukraine who were travelling through Romania on to other countries in Western Europe.

It's a nice place, where people feel at home.....away from home! It is so encouraging for me to hear how much people love it in the Mission Centre. Even when fleeing war, after such difficult journeys to get here, they say how lovely it is to rest in the Centre. I'm really looking forward to having it used non-stop this summer, so if you are not yet booked to come on a mission trip and you would like to do so, please contact us. You still have time!

I think that a Mission Trip can change a person and their view about life. It's a great time when you can assess and be thankful for what you have, appreciate life a bit more as my grandmother used to say!



Christ's Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Also, in my Missions Pillar, a highlight from the beginning of this year was my visit to USA. It was great to be back on the road and visit my dear friends who support the work we do, so faithfully and for so many years! It was a wonderful time when I could reconnect with people and meet new friends! I was so surprised to see the changes that took place all over the world due to the Covid pandemic and in a way, I did not feel such an isolated case. Romania was just like so many other places. I'm thankful to God for all His provisions to us and His constant faithfulness!

So, my dream is that I can do these types of visits more and more, especially now that my little family is growing and ready to travel!

Thank you for your constant support and prayers for all we do!





# OUTREACH PILLAR

Outreach represents several well-established projects that Smiles has become known for in more recent years. Now the focus has moved from the primary "social" concern to our primary responsibility of "spiritual" concern. This new emphasis of purpose encourages all in the OUTREACH Pillar to honour the Great Commission of **Matthew 28 v19**.

**Adrian Matis**

Director of Outreach Pillar  
The Smiles Foundation



Every time when we discuss direction and action under the Outreach Pillar, we touch on the social care needs, as these are still a very important aspect of our work. We are determined to put together advice and practical support, in order to make our input always relevant, so the basic support - food and medicine, is of course available.

At the Container Village, we continued to offer our assistance to many homeless people, despite various challenges. Twice a week we are present there and we share sandwiches, tea, coffee, at the same time our team makes themselves available for



anyone to discuss and pray with, to do a little bit of teaching from the Bible and just have a friendly shoulder for those going through tough times.

The containers, by-the-way, were kindly redecorated, very nicely, by Art-school students, for who we provided the needed materials. So we are happy to see some more colour in the village and that makes it also a more enjoyable place to be in.

The families we visit suffer quite a bit because of the effects of the previous restrictions. Although they are lifted now, still

jobs are difficult to find, especially when discussing the very poor and uneducated groups we work with, so the perspective often is still dark despite the better times. We are there to help, so we did find some jobs for some people, while we helped others, especially children, to carry on with their education and stay in school. Some of the parents we work with are concerned though about their kids' future, so they will do their best to support them and allow them to develop correctly, as a new generation.

In Rapa, we continued the support offered to the gypsy community, concerning all areas like spiritual, material, educational and relational. Part of the Outreach team is involved with them regularly, to provide the services and assistance required. We also support other families in the village, like Florina and her mother, as well as many others in the area - and we might add even more in the near future, as there is plenty of need for intervention!



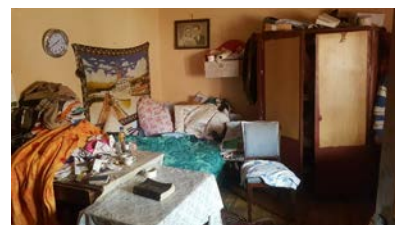
Speaking of that, many of you will remember Salard, right? Well, paying just recently a visit to the community, it felt like we still must do something, for some families at least, despite our decision to cease support a while back. The life in Salard is still such a struggle, that we cannot just watch and do nothing! So, hopefully before too long, the Outreach team will go back in there and make support available for the poorest of the poor, about 3 or 4 families. We wouldn't start again a community-based programme, but for individual situations only, we will take some action.

We would like to introduce to you one family we met recently who are a good example of how things are going out on the field. Of course, each case is different, but you'll get a good idea about it.

One of the new colleagues in the Outreach team received a phone call from a friend of hers, saying they knew a poor family who could do with some help. As always, being ready to help, we agreed to go and pay a visit, to see how things are. After a first unsuccessful attempt to see the family (we only understood later why - she was afraid of us at first) we finally managed to get to meet them.



We found a man 78 years of age and his daughter - 46 years old. They are both sick, she has some mental challenges, while the man tries to take care of her, but with limited resources. Lucica, the lady, suffered an accident a while ago and ever since she has various limitations in what she can do, her treatment requires a lot of money and they don't have it.



This family needs someone to assist them, help them deal with their issues, our team tries to find the best ways to intervene soon!

Dezna Camps has all year-round capacity now, so we were happy to take kids from Rapa there, even if it was late October last year. They were so excited! Despite what you might see in the picture, Ioana did only try to build relations and create confidence!





Since the first exciting announcement in our Autumn/Winter 2021 Newsletter – there has been a wonderful response to the plans for Smiles new project – building a 60-bed residential facility in Cihei – but that doesn't begin to explain the plans and opportunities this project will provide.

Of course, it will be a 'state-of-the-art' facility – embodying modern construction techniques but also with the services and ministry that will be possible. The plan with Sunset House Cihei is not to restrict those services and that ministry to the residents, but also for a significant outreach to the community, offering Day Services by using the vast facilities the project will provide to those in the community needing support, services and ministry week by week.

Our staff will include medical professionals. A Doctor, Nurses, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Sensory Room and Hydrotherapy Specialists. Whilst residents will be adults over the age of 18, our Day Services will be offered to the entire family, including children through Disability Clubs for Down Syndrome, Autistic, and other conditions requiring professional support. Popular features such as 'Elderly Luncheons' will be a regular event, allowing those in the community to enjoy fellowship and good food.

Whilst the Smiles Foundation has always worked hard to deliver professional facilities and services, our heart always remains firmly committed to the Great Commission of sharing the Gospel with all and seeing those who pass through our services, able to respond to God's amazing Call to follow Him. Our Pastoral staff, Outreach teams and the hundreds of visitors we welcome from America and the United Kingdom will all be able to share in that front-line ministry through Prayer & Bible Study Meetings, Worship Services, Counselling and Personal prayer time with our residents.

Sunset House, Cihei will be so much more than a Residential Care Home. This will be a place that can be called 'home' but also a place full of love and concern for the individual needs and for the dignity of those who step through our doors. This is a huge project we are undertaking and will need your matching support to achieve all we plan. Full details of our plans, timetable, support options – including sponsorship of rooms or facilities to honour loved-ones, are all on the Smiles Website. Lots of information which I would ask you to take a read of, and then contact me with any comments or questions.



**Kevin Hoy**  
Founder & Chief Executive  
The Smiles Foundation

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org/project/sunset-house-cihei-romania/](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org/project/sunset-house-cihei-romania/)

**We have been in this position many times before. Facing huge challenges that feel too big at times. But never too big for God! So let's believe that once again we will see a Dream become Reality. Thank you!**

You can support the development of  
Sunset House, donate using these codes:

UK



USA



Travelling to Romania on a minibus in April 2001 with strangers, was to be a 'once in a lifetime' experience for me. How wrong was I? The experiences of that trip and the people I met seeped into my soul and settled deep within my heart. Upon my return, I had to do something, but it was very daunting, and I had little confidence. I would never be able to raise much money, but maybe a little now and then!

I run a Toddler group and started selling a few cakes each week. Then we increased our subs, donating half to Smiles for the sponsored families. Just little things.

In 2011, I decided to get a 'Peppa Pig' suit and rent myself out for children's parties/events for a donation to Smiles. I was terrified, but each time, I said a prayer and remembered for who and why I was doing it. It has been a magical experience. During the first lockdown 'Peppa' cycled 100 miles on an exercise bike to raise a smile for the local children and some donations. £800 (\$1,000) was donated to both Smiles and Crohns & Colitis UK.

Last week our Toddler group held a sponsored 'Welly Walk' to help with the Ukrainian appeal. Peppa joined in too. The children had lots of fun, while the mums just wanted to help families the same as themselves.



**Lynda Donaldson**  
Smiles Ambassador

Over the years, I have realised even the smallest of amounts are equally important as the large ones. Our dear Smiles friend, Stephen Woodward always said, "never discount the small amounts which are often given with the biggest hearts"! Those strangers from 2001 are now my Smiles family and are never more than a prayer away. God Bless!



Hello everyone,

We are thoroughly enjoying 2022 here in Romania, with welcoming people here again, and looking forward to the challenges and joys that it will bring in the rest of the year and beyond. A huge part of that is the imminent beginning of Sunset House Cihei! This astounding project is one that many of you have heard about and seen the video on our website, please check it out if you haven't yet. With the dedication service for this project coming at the start of April this project is very much at the forefront of our minds, with the amount that will need to be done to make it happen.

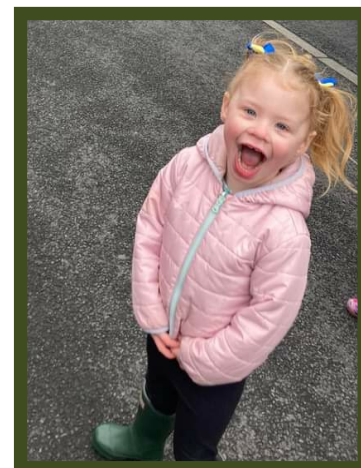
It could easily be overwhelming. But we firmly believe that God has called us to do this in His name and He will make it possible! Full details of the project and its costs can be read in Kevin's website reports. But I would like to share with you, and maybe inspire some ideas for you, by telling you about the target my family and I have set for ourselves to help Sunset House. Each resident's twin room will be £13,750 (\$18,560) to complete over three years. This is a large but realistic target, we feel, to raise through fundraising and commit to being Visionaries for this project.



**Luke Wathen**  
Smiles Development Ambassador  
(England, Scotland and Wales)

We will endeavour to raise this money to help people in Romania by providing a safe, comfortable home for them to live in peace with dignity in their later years. But more than that we will be doing it in memory of my Mum, Diana Wathen, who passed away in 2020. Mum was such a kind, loving and generous person and this can be part of her legacy. Therefore, we have already begun the process of raising this money. But Sunset House needs more Visionaries, enough for 30 twin rooms.

Could you join us in becoming one, maybe a group of you. Family, friends, a church group or others? You can help make a difference to every person who lives in Sunset House over the coming decades. By showing them God's love in a practical and life changing way. Thank you!



**Diana Wathen**





# RESIDENTIAL PILLAR

Residential is a key-pillar of Smiles - demonstrating God's love and compassion for the elderly and disabled in our communities. Substantial facilities with trained and dedicated staff, enables Smiles to be a leader in the development of Residential Care in Romania. We rejoice at God's provision as stated in **Isaiah 46 v4**.



## Thoughts from JFL in early Spring

When I think about the events of the last few weeks, I think that each of us sees the past as a cold winter that never ends, and yet Spring has arrived on the calendar. But how about our soul? Do we feel Spring in our souls as well?

At the JFL, having 27 residents, we marked the arrival of Spring and the International Day of Women with a special event with songs, poems, flowers and sharing memories.

With this occasion, during the various activities scheduled, I used an imagination exercise: I asked all the participants "What comes to your mind when you hear the word "spring"? And I received many answers: a field of flowers, life, snowdrops, flower planting, bee hum, fresh air. Amazed by these answers, I felt that a good conclusion, in the form of some wishes for the season, was very appropriate, and here it is also as a Spring wish for you as well:

*I wish that this Spring we all get a life to please our Creator, who brings all nature to life. It would be nice for us to flourish in love and good deeds, as trees blossom in the spring months, to spread the light of spring around us with warm and loving smiles. I would like this spring to make us forget about worries and the hard times we are going through! I wish we could find the strength to move forward every day, in spite of the illness and pain!*



*We have great fellowship each time when we get together, singing songs and listening to God's Word.*

Here at JFL we pray to God to help us prepare ourselves every day for the time when we will reach the place where spring is everlasting.

In conclusion, remember what Apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 13:14** and take this as our wish for you, as a blessing and as a "thank you" for all the wonderful support you provide for us: **May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!**



**Andrea Borszeki**  
Social Worker at JFL

Thank you!





## ENTERPRISE PILLAR

*The Enterprise Pillar carries the responsibility of supporting the Work of God through Smiles as an honourable Business, doing God's Work in God's Way. 100% owned by the Smiles Foundation, ensures all profits are channelled into front-line ministry - wherever most needed with the other three supporting Pillars of Smiles. Inspired by **Matthew 25 v15-16**.*

**Simona Tosity**

Director of Enterprise Pillar  
The Smiles Foundation



**"All for one and one for all!"**

I am sure many of you will recognize one of the most famous quotes in history, from the novel of Alexandre Dumas "The three musketeers". This was one of my favourite books that I probably read 4 or 5 times, when I was a teenager.



Beside the historical context, the intrigues, the bravery, the code of honour, the commitment and sacrifice that the protagonists were willing to take for their own beliefs was fascinating for me.

Now, what has any of this to do with the greenhouse? Just stay with me for a second. Lots of you know that October-March period is the busiest for the glasshouse. Over 600,000 bulbs of hyacinths, 100,000 primroses, 50,000 pansies, 35,000 dianthus and so on, were planted, grown and, most importantly, sold!



Something that all of you know is that the recent months were marked by COVID restrictions, with all the added "blessings" – COVID waves, isolation, panic. We were overwhelmed with work because the daily workers stopped coming, the staff were sick, isolated and I had many moments when I was actually sure there is no way out of this. And guess what? All the staff from different projects, and most importantly, supporters from abroad left their projects, took a COVID test, bought plane tickets and came to help us. One day in the greenhouse, seeing so many people there, suddenly it came to me: "All for one and one for all!" And immediately I thought who could be that "one"!

*Many wonderful flowers were given to mothers and women for the 8th of March, when we celebrate International Woman's Day.*

*Our Glasshouse produced more than 90,000 of the Primula variety, these beautiful flowers becoming presents and very appropriate signs of appreciation for all ladies.*



Well, I think it is Smiles, "one" is that large family of Smiles, who will try to response to a need which comes in different shapes: in the glasshouse, in the residential area, in the outreach programmes, in the Ukrainian refugees, day to day, leaving aside their own agenda, their own comfort and often their own personal lives – in order to help, where help is most needed.

What a faithful God we have! A God that provides the means and blesses the hard work!

And now, what could be next? Well, now... I am just looking forward to the summer!



# Please pray with us!

One of the Bible verses tells us that Jesus is a door that takes us from a life of despair and sorrow to a new life, an abundant life, that fills our hearts with new hope and everlasting love! (John 10: 9,10)

When we look around us, we see so much of the "old" life and we sometimes struggle to understand why things are not yet perfect. Instead of being disappointed or turned, we should always remind ourselves that the best answers only come when praying to God!

Below you'll find some points that are important to us and we would like to ask you to pray for:

**1** *Experiencing the refugee support demands of the past weeks, we realize what a terrible tragedy this war is! Let us all pray that God will soon deliver the Ukrainian people from the circumstances they are facing.*

**2** *Of course, we are looking ahead to the most ambitious project that Smiles Foundation ever undertook, let's pray that The Sunset House will be successful in the construction phase, as well as running in the future!*

**3** *We are always concerned to make sure the efforts we put into doing something are optimized, so that the resources are always well spent. Please pray that both human and financial resources will not be missing from Smiles!*

**4** *Equally, we should never stop being grateful and pray to God with a thankful heart, because we have seen His provision so many times before. Give thanks with us for the amazing loving care He surrounds us all with!*

## The Ukrainian Suffering

The peace and calm in this part of the world, was shattered brutally by the decision to use force against people of an independent, peaceful country. Russian leaders took a very condemnable approach to whatever the issues were. While it is not our role here to debate much on this, we still want to say a strong NO to it and consider what we can do to help.

Because it is, in the end, about how we can meet the real needs of the real people who are suffering. It is a well known fact that many refugees had to run away



from Ukraine, losing all they had, in order to be safe elsewhere and to start life all over again. Inevitably, Smiles was facing the need and had a response to it!

There were several ways we helped - either by providing support for transportation of these refugees to countries of Western Europe or by providing accommodation, food and medical care as well. All in all, we could say there was a quick and efficient response, aimed at helping those experiencing the most disruptive and traumatizing period of their lives.

Thank you for your support in these extraordinary circumstances and please continue to help and pray for the Ukrainian people and their future recovery!



Meet Vika, she is just 15 and had to leave her home town in Ukraine, together with her mother and younger sister, to save their lives. They were on the road for a week before they arrived to Smiles, where they found shelter for two days, then continued their journey to Germany.

In a short conversation we had before they left, she was obsessively talking about her father, who was in the military and fighting on the battle line. They had lost connection with him and were very worried about his fate. Please pray for this family and many others experiencing the same ordeal! We can only imagine the suffering they are going through!

## Thank You!

Despite the worst news and the most unsettling updates, wars and pandemics, problems and complications everywhere, we are still doing what we believe God called us to do! And we are very thankful we have amazing supporters who provide the means for us to continue pressing on!

We want to acknowledge your contribution to the vision of Smiles for now and for the future, and say a big Thank You!

Your continued support makes a difference and we couldn't do it without you!  
May God bless you all!



Latest updates from Smiles in Romania

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